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FAIRFIELD IS STIRRED BY DOUBLE CRIME

H. D. McDONALD KILLS BRIDE OF SIX WEEKS AND THEN SUICIDES; COUPLE HAD BEEN VISITING WOMAN'S PARENTS.

LETTER FROM WOMAN CAUSE OF TRAGEDY

CHICAGOAN CLAIMED TO BE THE WIFE OF McDONALD, WHO KILLED WIFE AND SUICIDED RATHER THAN FACE ACCUSER.

Chicago, Ill., March 15. Will you ask your son-in-law, Harry McDonald, what he meant when he promised to love and cherish me and what he proposes to do about our unborn child? Tell him to come to Chicago and clear this matter up if he dares. If you want further information about this man, write to Cincinnati and ask for W. H. Ward and his whereabouts. I say he is a crook. I am writing this to let you know some of the things your daughter is entitled to know.

Sincerely yours, Mr. McDonald can fill in my name. I am only one of the girls he has deceived.

Mr. J. E. McDaniel, Fairfield, Iowa.

Fairfield, March 25.—(Special)—Fairfield was the scene of a brutal double tragedy last night when Harry McDonald of Chicago shot and killed his bride of six weeks and then committed suicide. The couple had been visiting Mrs. McDonald's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McDaniel in this city, and the letter shown above points to the motive for the tragedy.

The couple met in Chicago where the girl, who was 24 years of age, was taking a course in the St. Luke hospital training school. They became engaged and the marriage was to have been next June, but the girl was stricken with appendicitis and McDonald insisted on the marriage being performed before the operation was begun. His wishes were carried out and they were married with the hospital attendants as witnesses.

The operation was successful and when the bride had recovered she came with her husband to recuperate at the home of her parents in Fairfield.

They had been in Fairfield but a few days when Mr. McDaniel received the letter shown at the head of this article. He gave it to his daughter and she questioned McDonald. He denied the accusations, but the bride's faith was shaken. For several days past McDonald has been seeking to induce his wife to accompany him on strolls into the woods. She refused, but finally she consented to accompany him and they left home last evening for a moonlight stroll. They never returned and this morning their dead bodies were found on the old Burlington right of way north of Chautauque park. The woman had been shot in the right temple and in the hip. The man's body was found about sixty feet away, with the head lying in a creek.

When the couple did not return McDaniel, the father of the woman, a well known Fairfield traveling salesman, feared that they had been foul play and organized a searching party. The bodies were brought to the city and the coroner was summoned and summoned a jury for the inquest.

At the inquest the letter received by McDaniel was placed in evidence. Some of McDonald's personal effects were also produced and proved that the man had, as the Chicago girl stated in her letter, been known as Ward. There were medals found among his effects, one from the English government for bravery in the Boer war, McDonald having served with the Scottish Highlanders.

The coroner's jury is still in session and has not returned a verdict. McDonald had expressed his determination of returning to Chicago and facing the charges against him. With his wife he was to have left next Sunday night. Evidently he feared to face his accuser, however, and was inspired by this fear to murder his bride and suicide.

Damage in South Dakota. Pierre, S. D., March 25.—Two prairie fires did heavy damage in the state which swept the state up to last night. A strip of country two miles wide and ten miles long in western Sully county was burned over and barns, sheds, outbuildings and farm machinery in the path were totally destroyed. Teamsters report an extensive fire southwest of Wall, 100 miles west of here.

DEMOCRATS TO GATHER IN CITY JULY 27

DATE FOR STATE CONVENTION WAS NAMED AT YESTERDAY'S CONFERENCE IN DES MOINES—REED IS PLEASED.

The Democrats of Iowa will hold their annual state convention in Ottumwa Wednesday July 27, according to the decision made by the Democratic state central committee in session in Des Moines yesterday. This date was agreed upon as being the best, now that the Republicans will hold their meeting in Des Moines on August 2, one week later.

Chairman Clint Price, of the committee, and N. F. Reed of Ottumwa and J. P. Dalton of Manson, members of the committee, fixed the date, they being charged with this duty by the whole committee in its recent meeting in Des Moines when Ottumwa was chosen as the convention city.

The committee will meet again in Des Moines April 8 for a general discussion, and at this meeting it is likely that a slate will be made for ratification at the convention in Ottumwa. It is also possible that some arrangement will be made for members of the state committee, and the manner in which N. F. Reed of this city is appreciated by the present committee, it is more than likely that he will be selected as chairman of the committee for service next year.

MAY IMPORT BIG GAME

African Travelers Testify Before House Committee on Hippo and Rhino.

Washington, D. C., March 25.—The introduction of the hippopotamus, rhinoceros, camel, eland, springbok, trekbok, dikdik, coudoo, giraffe, and other African animals into America as a solution of the problem of food supply was suggested by speakers before the house committee on agriculture yesterday afternoon.

Cap. Fritz Duquesne, a Boer; Dr. Erwin of the department of agriculture and Maj. Burnham, who spent years in Africa, accompanied by Colonel Roosevelt in part of their travels, argued in favor of the Brossard bill to import wild and domestic animals into the United States. Such animals, according to the bill, must prove useful either as food or beasts of burden. All the witnesses declared that many animals of Africa easily could be raised in this country.

"The hippopotamus can be led and fed on a milk bottle," declared Duquesne. "The zebra would in four generations become so tame he would meander into your bedrooms."

ELDERS ARE NAMED.

Des Moines Conference of United Evangelical Church Meets at Cedar Rapids.

Cedar Rapids, March 25.—(Special). The Des Moines conference of the United Evangelical church selected Rev. J. Auerch of Marshalltown as presiding elder of the Cedar Rapids district and Rev. G. W. Mulden of Zeeland as presiding elder of the Des Moines conference.

TAX FERRETS SUE STECKELS

CLAIM OF \$90,361.52 FOR BACK TAXES FILED AGAINST BLOOMFIELD PEOPLE

Bloomfield, March 25.—(Special).—What promises to be one of the greatest civil actions ever contested in Davis county and one of the largest in the state was begun here when the National Accounting Co., of Des Moines filed a claim of \$90,361.51 back taxes against Amos and W. J. Steckel of Bloomfield.

The National Accounting company, represented by its tax ferret, Major E. C. Worthington, claims that the defendants in this case have failed to give in money and credits amounting to \$550,000 each year for the last five years.

Major Worthington has been at work for the past two months on the tax list of Davis county and has found a number of delinquent taxes, but this is the first large one he has discovered. It is hinted at, by those being in close touch with the work, that other large amounts will be ferreted out before long. This is one of the largest suits of its kind ever instituted in the state, only five others being as large or larger.

To Erect Temple. Des Moines, March 25.—(Special).—Five Masonic lodges here today agreed to erect a Masonic temple at Fourteenth and High streets to cost \$250,000.

THIRTEEN MEN WILL HEAD THE INDUSTRIAL CO.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION NAME ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO OPERATE \$100,000 CONCERN.

The Ottumwa Industrial Co., a corporation to be formed for the purpose of assisting worthy home industries and securing new manufacturing plants to locate here, will have thirteen representative business men, all members of the Ottumwa Commercial association, as its board of directors. The board of the Commercial association last night concurred the recommendations of the Industrial Fund committee, and ratified the selection of six additional directors, making the total board of the company to be formed thirteen in number.

The full directorate of the Ottumwa Industrial Co. will be made up of the following business men:

Henry Phillips, of the Phillips Fuel Co., and Ottumwa Box Car Loader Co. J. B. Sax of the J. B. Sax Clothing Co. W. J. Donelan of W. J. Donelan & Co. T. D. Foster of John Morrell & Co. Joseph Dain of the Dain Manufacturing Co. W. B. Bonfield of the First National bank. Calving Manning of Manning and Wellman. Samuel Mahon of the J. H. Merrill Co. A. G. Harrow of the Ottumwa Gas, Light, Heat & Power Co. John Wormhoudt of the Wormhoudt Lumber Co. W. T. Harper of J. W. Edgerly & Co. Frank McIntire of Harper & McIntire Co. W. E. Cook of the Ottumwa Mill & Construction Co.

The articles of incorporation were gone over thoroughly last night by the Commercial association directors and a number of changes and additions were suggested. The board will finally accept the incorporation articles at a luncheon next Monday noon, at which the directors of the Ottumwa Industrial Co. will also be present. This will be the regular weekly meeting of the Commercial association directors, and no meeting will be held Tuesday noon, in order to allow some of the directors to attend the waterways convention at Farmington. The directors Monday noon will also devise ways and means of raising the necessary capital stock of the new corporation.

AIRSHIPS SECURED

Flying Machines Will Be One of the Big Features of the State Fair This Year.

Des Moines, March 25.—(Special).—Flying machines for the Iowa State fair of 1910 are an assured fact. Whether it will be the Wright brothers machine or the Curtiss depends on the contracts which are sent next week to Secretary Vinson. He returned today from Chicago where he closed a deal for a flying machine exhibit every day of the fair.

HOME ROBBED NEAR MYSTIC

BURGLARS TAKE \$445 FROM DRESSER DRAWER IN FARM HOUSE—ONE ARREST.

Mystic, Mar. 25.—The home of Henry Hooten located about a mile north-east of Mystic on the road that leads to Rathbun, was burglarized last night between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock. Among the things missing from the house after the burglary was discovered was a dresser belonging to a dresser that had been rifled. The drawer was found this morning in the yard outside the house and an examination of it revealed the loss of \$445. The loss of the money was not discovered until this morning and leaving the drawer where it was found near the fence which was broken by the burglars, until bloodhounds could be secured, an effort to procure the service of the bloodhounds was made but without success. The arrest of Bill Street, an employee of a local livery barn, was made this morning and he is being held on suspicion pending the finding of the burglars. Street stated that a party came to the livery barn last night and secured a horse and rig, but he would not divulge the name of the party and is held until more develops. Street refuses to talk further since his arrest.

Corcoran Child Burns. Corydon, March 25.—(Special).—Drene, the six year old daughter of W. H. Blag is dead. Her dress caught fire from a burning tree by the road side. Neighbors tried to save her but she died in two hours.

DR. WHITAKER IS INDICTED FOR MURDER

GRAND JURY RETURNS BILL AGAINST OTTUMWA PHYSICIAN CHARGING HIM WITH THE DEATH OF MRS. HAMMERSLEY

The charge of murder because of an alleged criminal operation said to have been performed January 25 on Mrs. Ella Hammersley who died at the hospital February 27, was the finding of the grand jury in the examination of Dr. B. Whitaker. Bonds in the sum of \$8,000 were given by the wife of the accused this morning in the office of the clerk of court, and he was afterwards presented in court for arraignment. Asked by the court if a record be made of the arraignment, his counsel declined and the arraignment followed whereby County Attorney Seneca Cornell read the indictment and the time for the plea was set for next Wednesday.

Criminal Operation.

The indictment charges I. B. Whitaker with the use of an instrument on the person of Mrs. Ella Hammersley for the accomplishment of a purpose that is contrary to law and the same was not necessary to save the life of the patient. The criminal operation was said in the indictment to have been committed January 25, death resulting from the operation February 27. The language of the indictment charges Dr. Whitaker with murder in that he did willfully, maliciously and feloniously kill Mrs. Hammersley.

Arrested February 28.

The arrest of Dr. Whitaker took place February 28, the day following the death of Mrs. Hammersley and was caused by Constable W. A. Derby, of G. B. Melick's justice court upon a warrant issued by Coroner A. W. Slaughter following the verdict reached by the coroner's jury in the inquest held over the body of Mrs. Hammersley. The verdict charged the physician with a criminal operation on the woman which resulted in her death. Dr. Whitaker was arraigned in Justice G. B. Melick's court upon the charge of murder in the second degree. He waived examination to the grand jury and was placed under a bond of \$7,000, which his wife was the surety on.

Inquest Charged Murder.

Mrs. Hammersley was the wife of W. S. Hammersley, 239 McPherson street, and prior to her death made an ante-mortem statement to Assistant County Attorney E. R. Merrill in the presence of several witnesses, stating that Dr. Whitaker had performed a criminal operation on her. A post-mortem examination was held in the morgue of C. T. Sullivan, y Doctors E. A. Sheafe, M. Bannister and F. W. Newell in the presence of Coroner A. W. Slaughter. The examination showed by the testimony of the examining physicians at the inquest, that death resulted from septicemia or blood poisoning caused by the criminal operation. The finding of the coroner's inquest was as follows:

We, the jury do find that the said Ella Hammersley came to her death, between the hours of 12 m., and 1 o'clock p. m., on the 27th day of February, 1910, from septicemia, caused by a criminal operation performed by Dr. I. B. Whitaker on or about January 25, 1910, said operation was for the purpose of producing and did produce abortion.

Will Be Heard This Term.

The time for making the plea for the accused was set for Wednesday morning, March 30 in order to give the counsel for Dr. Whitaker time to prepare his plea. The case will come up for hearing in the present term of court unless some unforeseen obstacle arises to prevent it.

PRAIRIE FIRE RAGING

An Area of More Than 300 Square Miles Has Been Burned Over in Nebraska.

Alliance, Neb., March 25.—Reports from towns along the Burlington railroad east of here show that prairie fires are raging in the three counties of Hooker, Thomas and Blaine. The damage to ranges, fences and hay will be heavy as the fire extends nearly fifteen miles and is driven by a heavy wind.

The government forest reserve on Dismal river suffered severely from fire. Fifty foresters fought the flames for twenty-four hours but were unable to prevent them destroying a large section of the reserve. The fire is known to have covered an area, exceeding 300 square miles. Several large herds of cattle stampeded and many were lost. The entire equipment of several ranches is destroyed.

TO INVESTIGATE WRECK

State Railroad Commission Will Go to Marshalltown to Place Blame for Catastrophe

Des Moines, March 25.—(Special).—The railroad commission goes to Marshalltown Tuesday to take part in the investigation in the cause of the recent wreck of the Rock Island at Green Mountain.

The Saylor Murder Trial is Stirring State of Illinois



MRS. SAYLER. GOLDIE SAYLER.

Dr. W. R. Miller, Mrs. Lucy Saylor, widow, and John Grunden, father of the widow, are defendants in the Saylor murder case now being tried here.

WITNESS SAYS TWO ACCUSED WERE INTIMATE

MRS. SAYLER AND DR. MILLER, ACCUSED OF MURDER, OFTEN SEEN TOGETHER; STATE WITNESS IS ACCUSED.

Watska, Ill., March 25.—The only important feature of the Saylor murder case today was the statement of a witness that Mrs. Saylor and Dr. Miller, both accused of the crime were often seen together.

Watska, Ill., March 25.—Failure to declare early in his examination that he had seen a hatchet near the body of John B. Saylor, brought a verbal lashing to witness D. H. Myer yesterday afternoon in his trial of William R. Miller, Mrs. Lucy Saylor and John Grunden charged with murdering the Crescent City banker.

Charging an "unholy combination to suppress facts beneficial to the defense," Attorney F. P. Morris excoriated the witness who was called to the stand by the state.

"The evidence came on cross-examination, after Myer had told of seeing various articles in the room where the tragedy occurred, and had not indicated, until asked a direct question, that he had seen the hatchet."

On redirect examination by State's Attorney Fullsander, Myer declared he did not see the hatchet until several hours after his first visit to the Saylor home on the last July night last year.

Myer in telling of the scene in Crescent City on July 6 last, was dramatic in the extreme. He rose to his feet and illustrated to the jury the spectacle that met his view as he entered the house that night. He was called by Grunden immediately after the killing. His testimony was listened to by a crowd which filled the court room from door to rail.

Questioned by State's Attorney Fullsander, Myer was asked how the trouble happened and Grunden said it was none of his business.

Q. What did Mrs. Saylor say on the night that night? A. He said, "Is that you, Nell? I want you here, I've shot Saylor and he's shot me through the wrist. I've got to have attention." Q. How was Mrs. Saylor dressed? A. She had on a wrapper.

Q. What was Mrs. Saylor's demeanor? A. She was very cool. She seemed to me just as usual.

Q. Was she excited? A. No, I don't think she was.

Q. In what position was the body? A. It was lying on the floor near the door. We had to step over it to enter.

Q. Tell the jury what happened there. A. Well, Mrs. Saylor was anxious about Miller being hurt. She made a cup of coffee for him and brought it to him.

Talks on Good Roads.

Cedar Falls, March 25.—(Special).—Governor Carroll delivered an address in the high school auditorium here last night on the subject of good roads, advocated the narrowing of the public highways and thereby giving over for agricultural purposes thousands of acres of land. The occasion of the address was the meeting of the Northeastern Iowa Editorial association which was well attended.

TWENTY GIRLS LOSE LIVES IN CHICAGO FIRE

EXPLOSION IN FACTORY TRAPS WORKERS ON UPPER FLOORS. ONE JUMPS TO DEATH; WHILE OTHERS DIE IN FLAMES.

BODIES CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED

REMAINS TAKEN OUT FROM UNDER TONS OF DEBRIS AND LOWERED TO STREETS WITH ROPES.

Chicago, March 25.—Twenty persons lost their lives in a fire which attacked the Fish Furniture company building at 1908-1908 Wabash avenue here today. Forty employees escaped. A girl who jumped from a third story window died at the hospital. The dead were trapped, it is said, on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, when an explosion of benzine on the fourth floor wrapped the building in flames.

One of the dead is said to have been a man who perished in a desperate endeavor to rush up a stairway to aid those imprisoned above. Those killed were all women and girls. Ten of the latter, it is said, were at work on the sixth floor when the explosion occurred. The spread of the flames cut off their escape at the stairways. They then turned to the front of the building, smashing the glass in the windows. The horrified spectators in the street below looking through the haze of flames, smoke and spray of water, could see dimly the faces of the girls framed up in the windows above.

Girl Jumps to Death.

Suddenly one of the girls stepped to the window ledge, her face a picture of terror, and screamed for help. The turmoil below suddenly turned to silence as the form poised and then sprang to the street below. She fell on an awning over the front entrance of the store, where she lay unconscious until Dr. Kinsley, crawling out on the canopy, lifted her up. She was taken to St. Luke's hospital, but died soon afterwards. Later it was learned the girl's name was Emma Lichtenstein.

Soon after Miss Lichtenstein's desperate leap a crash of floors falling was heard and the faces at the window disappeared.

At noon the loss of life was estimated at twenty or more. The interior of the ruin was still very hot from the smoldering debris when a fireman entered the building to search for the bodies. The fifth and sixth floors had collapsed, falling in a tangled mass to the fourth. A half hour's search resulted in the recovery of three bodies.

Partial List of the Missing.

Following is a partial list of the missing: Veronica McGrath, Gertrude Quinn, Lillian Sullivan, Mary Wargo, Hannah Burden, Rosale Brucke, Ethel Anderson.

Henry M. Mitchell, auditor, and the brother-in-law of Sigmund Fish, one of the partners.

Miner W. Bell, Bert Sticker, William Green.

At 12:30 seven bodies had been recovered, most of them badly mutilated almost beyond recognition.

Cause of the Fire.

Isaac Fish, secretary of the company, says the fire started when an employee went into the finishing department to get some alcohol for a cigar lighter. The electric spark of the lighter, according to Fish, started the fire, which quickly reached cans of benzine nearby and explosions followed rapidly. Fish expressed the belief that all of the employees on the fourth floor escaped, but could see no hope for those above.

There were twenty-two on the fifth and sixth floors and it is possible all are dead. The financial loss will be \$300,000.

As one by one the crushed and blackened bodies were removed from the wrecked building and taken to the nearby morgue the police had difficulty in restraining an immense crowd which surged about the scene. Among these were persons searching for friends and relatives and they fought the police to get a view of the bodies as they were being taken away. Many women fainted and others screamed hysterically and struggled to prevent being lead away. The bodies were dug from under tons of debris and were lowered to the street by means of ropes.

At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon twelve bodies had been recovered. Those identified were Veronica McGrath and Mrs. Hannah Burden. Three bodies were found together in a corner of the wreckage, their position showing they had been in an attitude of prayer when death came.